

EDUCATION:A WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable development is a growing concern about human's society effect on the natural environment, Education plays a vital role in promoting the development of knowledge, skills, values and actions that are required to create a sustainable world. Further, it ensures environmental conservation and promotes social equity. Hence results in encouraging economic sustainability. ECO- UNESCO provides youth development programmes which address the needs of youth and provide them an opportunity to feed into programme development. This paper lays emphasis on goals of sustainable development in India and contribution of schools and agencies in providing sustainability.

Key-words: ECO-UNESCO , ESD, UN, Sustainable Development.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of sustainable development was firstly defined in 1987 by the Brundtland Commission. (Basiago 1995) It is the development which meets the needs of present without compromising the capability of future generations to meet their basic needs. Its contribution implies in involving the protection of world's resources. The concept of ESD developed largely from environment education which later on helps in development of knowledge, skills and values in people to take care of environment. To promote ESD, The UNITED NATION Decade of Education for Sustainable Development was adopted by the UN General Assembly. UNESCO designed as the lead agency for promotion of Environment Sustainable Development through the decade. In this way, ESD ensures people to make decisions and carry out actions to improve quality of life. It aims to integrate the values in sustainable development in all aspects. In India, the role of schools and various agencies help in achieving the minimum goals for sustainable development. Only then national development will be shaped in the form of achieving national goals.

GOALS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- To ensure that there will be no poverty.
- To ensure healthy living and promote livelihood.
- To promote gender equality.
- To reduce inequality for future perspectives.
- To reduce carbon emissions and bring stabilization in environment.
- To have a balance over economic and social needs.
- To provide clean water and sanitation.
- To make use of improvised appliances to reduce wastage and stagnation.
- To provide environmental awareness in the society.

FACTORS AFFECTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Curriculum development in a holistic manner

The curriculum in schools should be made by educators and practitioners in such a way so that it should meet the basic requirements for a whole- institution approach.

- Values and Principles shared to the pupils

Pupils should be told about different values and principles on which curriculum is based and later on, these should be made an integral part of the curriculum which helps in bringing awareness to environment and sustainability.

- Promoting critical thinking and problem solving ability of the learners

The curriculum should be shaped in such a way that it promotes critical thinking and their problem solving ability to address the challenges to sustainable development.

- Employing different educational methods

Different methods like literature, art, drama and debate should be added to explain the processes so that these may bring motivation among pupils.

- Designing of curriculum for taking decisions independently

The content and educational programmes should be well designed so that it will allow them in decision- making in their life setting goals.

- Look for the future

The subject matter should be well defined, well- made and well- illustrated. In this way, it should be a long- term perspective and long- term planning.

ROLE OF ECO-UNESCO IN PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ECO- UNESCO has a great role in providing sustainable development on a global perspective. These work on the agenda to examine what we do and how are we connected to the world at local, national and international levels. It is the work of the organization which gives empowerment of young people and also the protection and conservation of our environment from a local and global perspective. There are different aims of the organisation which are a key concerns for raising environmental knowledge, giving awareness and develop understanding in young people, the promotion of the protection and conservation of the environment. The other vital aims are for the development of young people. Reed (2013) In this way, Education for sustainable development also works toward social inclusion and is the focus of ECO-UNESCO. ECO-Choices programmes are effective in drugs prevention and give awareness initiative that highlights the environment's key role in the well-being of people. Further, it delivers empowering environmental action projects to young people. These ECO-Choices programme uses different kinds of action projects and personal development work to encourage young people to take an active role in their environment.

Programmes like Youth for Sustainable Development are good examples of education for sustainable development. They lay emphasis on needs of the target group and provide them with an opportunity to feed into the programme development. The methods used in the programmes including schools' initiatives and community development work help in the development of practical skills such as teamwork, communication skills and develop critical thinking among them which fosters environment awareness and is the cause of susceptibility. Going from local to global dimension is also important to any ESD project as it promotes understanding and these local actions can have global consequences.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

Sustainable Development in India is an innovative field which links child's overall development to the future challenges of society in local as well as global perspective. Little

(2009), the fundamental aim of it is to acquaint the pupils about environment awareness and sustainable development right from the beginning of his schooling. Our children are being brought up in such an environment where they are ignorant about planetary sustainability. Here, sustainability development Education is mandatory for them as they are the future of our society who will represent the generations through their actions. SED is indeed a productive framework where the children, parents and the teachers should understand that social development, economic development and environment education should go hand in hand. If we work together, only then we can make our society aware of the real problems. From this, they will develop a better perspective for them at local as well as global level.

CONTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Schools carry the nurturement at the basic level of the youngest minds of the pupils where the need is to be put and fruit is to be taken in the society. Rauch. (2010), School is a place where pupils get an environment to interact with the other pupils. It is an ECO- Friendly environment where they are sensitised about the needs of different devices like solar power panels, water conservation measures and recycling system. The role of a teacher is of facilitator as he encourages his pupils for critically examining, involve in various collaborative activities, going to field trips and assigning them ECO- Friendly projects. These kinds of activities involve them in engaging together at national level and at the same time, they work together at global level which fosters them in attaining Sustainable Development Goals.

WAYS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

By promoting eradication of poverty

Engle (2011) Education is a powerful way to reduce poverty. UNESCO measures that one extra year of schooling results in increasing average annual gross domestic product.

By promoting health and nutrition

It is said that a mother's education results in improving child's nutrition. As the mother has gone through high schooling, she has known use of good diet for hers and her children which later on puts positive impact on their health and nutrition. Marmot (2008) UNESCO researches show that if the mothers of low- income countries get primary and secondary education, there will be reducing malnutrition there.

By providing quality education

Education is the backbone of the society. Without education, a nation cannot develop. In order to bring sustainability in society. Curriculum should be made in such a way that it should meet future needs of pupils for this, different innovations, experimental learning strategies and laboratory should be mandatory in the schools for developing in them scientific attitude.

By reducing gender discrimination

No society is self-sufficient if it has gender biases. To make our society sustainable one, men and women should be provided equal access to education, health care, work and decision making independently. Achieving gender equality requires legislation which ensures their growth and empowerment.

Sustainable management of water and sanitation

Safe drinking water, hygienic toilets and sanitation services are the backbone of economically sufficient society. These protect the people from diseases and results in development of economically productive society. If we want to achieve SED goals, we should prevent open defecation and accelerate our growth.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVE REGARDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- The first and foremost strategy include Defining national sustainable development strategy is three main policy actions like reforming land regulations to manage urban expansion to effectively use of land, enhancing sustainable urban infrastructure with a focus on multi-model transport planning and finally to strengthen urban local government including their financial ability, improving governance and accountability.
- The second area to be focussed on our energy system. In the 21st century, consumption of energy is doubled between 2000- 2015. We are set to contribute to the growing demands of energy consumption than any other country. Our current plans for meeting out demands of energy are ambitious and are achievable. Government plan is doing well with Indian companies plans like Adani, the world's largest solar plant is set up in Tamil Nadu.
- Tata has recently announced plans to generate 40 percent of energy by the year 2025.
- Indian railway transports 23 million people, it is the single- largest consumer of electricity for using low carbon.

- Different kinds of solar and wind panel energy plants are used to enhance India's overall energy security and achieving clean water targets.
- If we are to replace inefficient old bulbs, we have to promote use of LEDs and different projects to LED counterparts.
 - Various kinds of banks like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank are an important stakeholder which provides strong benefits for the country at global level.

CONCLUSION

Education for Sustainable development allows human being to acquire knowledge, skills actions and values that are mandatory to shape a sustainable future. Education changes the values, actions and their behaviour thereby encouraging them to lead a happy and prosperous life. In this way, ESD is a tool in the hand of policy makers which takes into account the present challenges of Environmental, society and economic one. India is a sustainable society where still a large portion of people reside in a life style based on reuse, reduce and recycle. Empowering the youth is a landmark process helps to create a sustainable world. Indian Government has taken steps to preserve the planet. They have included Environmental Education as a necessary subject in the school curriculum to create awareness for their environment. It is one of the landmark where Environmental Education is a part of the formal education system. Parents, teachers, consumers and educators together can make a difference by making susceptibility a priority. At higher Education level, ESD promotes the learning of skills, perspectives and values necessary for promoting sustainable societies. In this way, the various strategies empower the nation to fulfil their needs on the three pillars of economy, society and environment. The role of ESD is critical in changing the perceptions and attitudes of people towards self, society and environment.

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